



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #5: Monday, April 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon.](#)

I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Sarahlee Lawrence. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Gordon Jones; Stephen Pappa; and Scott Duggan, OSU Extension, Department of Animal & Rangeland Science.

II. Approval of January 29, 2024, Minutes

Ethan O'Brien moved to approve the minutes. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Update on Wolf Committee Activities throughout the State

Jen Patterson provided an update from a webinar hosted by ODA ahead of the grant applications. During that webinar, which was attended by committee representatives from around the state, several representatives from several counties indicated interest in meeting as a smaller group to develop committee templates and toolboxes. Currently when a county establishes a Wolf Committee it is up to that county's committee to educate themselves on how the program is run, establish relationships with state agencies like ODA and ODFW and develop any outreach and educational materials. County representatives have expressed interest in coming up with a more statewide uniformed process in implementing and running county committee programs. There is a lot of institutional knowledge throughout the state and a lot of lessons learned as some counties have had committees established for years.

Additionally, during that meeting a committee member (and support staff) invited several representatives to her ranch in Wheeler County. ODA, ODFW, and local representatives will be meeting in Wheeler County on April 12 to review recommended processes for implementing non-lethal preventative measures and to continue the broader discussion on pooling resources and ideas for working in a more cohesive manner throughout the state.

IV. Depredation Grant Allocations

ODA has announced the grant awards for 2023. Deschutes County requested a total of \$77,306.50 in grant funding and was awarded \$32,620.75. Below are tables detailing the requested and awarded amounts by category.

Requested:

Grant Fund Request	
Category 1 – Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.	\$ 1,935
Category 2 – Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.	\$ 5371.50
Category 3 – Total requested grant funds to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 22, 2024 through January 31, 2025.	\$ 70,000
Category 4 – Grant funds requested for the expenses allowed under OAR 603-049-0015(g) to implement the County Block Grant Program for 2024. (May only request 90% of actual expenses. The remaining expenses are to be included under Item 5 as a monetary contribution.)	\$
Total grant funds requested	\$ 77,306.50

Awarded:

Table 2.01 BUDGET

AWARD TYPE	BUDGET AMOUNT
#1 (Death/Injury)	\$1,935
#2 (Missing)	\$2,685.75
#3 (Prev./Nonlethal)	\$28,000
#4 (Admin)	\$0
Total Award	\$32,620.75

The committee discussed the fact that they are missing a set process for producers to submit grant requests in all three eligible categories. Gordon Jones would like to see a process where the livestock owners need to justify/provide documentation with more detail when submitting grant requests for missing livestock. Stephen Pappa also mentioned that there should be a process for requesting a depredation claim. Sarahlee Lawrence commented that as a livestock owner they were not aware when their ranch had experienced the first depredation from wolves as they didn't know the signs to look for. After contacting and working with ODFW to investigate the depredation they now have a much better sense of what to look for and can respond more timelier if future incidents should occur. Phil Chang questioned how new livestock producers would recognize a wolf depredation from the onset. How does the committee create a process to address first time producers experiencing wolf activity on their ranch? Sarahlee stated that it has now become much more public through being in the news, with the committee business, and other avenues through state ODA and ODFW resources and that it is not the same experience they had personally experienced as the first known depredation in Deschutes County.

Phil Chang brought up that the state is ramping up committee funding and that probably has a correlation to why missing funds were granted this year when they weren't in previous years.

The committee will establish a process in applying for grant funds ahead of next year's funding opportunity. The committee can establish a sub-committee, with 3 or fewer members, to do more in depth committee work and bring that work back to the full committee for consideration.

The committee moved into a discussion on how to divide out the awarded preventative measures funds. A group discussion on how to best use funding sources for outreach and education workshops brought up the idea to use existing organizations that conduct work with ranchers and livestock owners as a partner with the committee. Scott Duggan from OSU Extension mentioned that he puts on a lot of workshops and would be interested in

working with the committee on potential educational workshops.

Phil Chang posed the question on whether there is a season on where depredations occur more frequently and therefore if it would be more beneficial to target an educational workshop ahead of that season.

Ethan O'Brien motioned for the depredation and missing funds be awarded to Long Hollow Ranch. Gordon Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

Johnny Leason suggested allocating 40% of preventative measure funds requested to Long Hollow Ranch and the committee retain 40% of their funds requested for preventative measures. Ethan O'Brien proposed allocating some to Long Hollow, keeping funds for the committee to use throughout the year, and re-visiting later in the year any unspent funds. If the committee funds have not been spent they can be allocated to Long Hollow before January 31, 2025 when preventative measure grant funds need to be expended or returned to the state.

Phil Chang discussed that it may take the committee time throughout the year to determine the best use of the funds the committee has available to use toward preventative measures.

The committee continued the conversation on other preventative measure practices. Johnny Leason discussed the experience on his land and is not worried about wolves coming into his pits. He has cameras up on all corners of his property and has not had a wolf show up on the cameras. He sees a lot of bobcats, coyotes and other predators and has not had the problem or concerns that Long Hollow has.

Gordon Jones suggested having a Range Rider effectiveness workshop potentially sponsored by Scott Duggan with financial support provided by committee preventive measure funds. Sarahlee Lawrence reiterated that Range Riding is an effective measure as are collars. The collars allow them to see when the livestock are being agitated and allowing them to respond in real time with the virtual electronic fence.

Scott Duggan was asked if he could put together a budget to host an educational workshop. Scott indicated he would be willing to do this and work with the newly formed Deschutes Livestock Association, which is in the process of community outreach and building a local contact list. Ethan brought up that there are not a lot of actual ranchers within the county and posed the question on whether it might be beneficial to put together a multi-county workshop to target a broader audience.

Sarahlee Lawrence stated that it seemed fair to allocate the preventative measure funds at the rate the state allocated – 40% of requested amount be allocated to Long Hollow Ranch for a total of \$18,000 and 40% of committee requested funds of \$10,000. Other committee members mentioned that \$10,000 is lot for the committee to hang onto without specific items to spend the money on.

Ethan suggested the committee allocate \$20,000 to Long Hollow Ranch and retain \$8,000 for committee purposes throughout the year. If the committee doesn't spend the full \$8,000 the unspent funds can be allocated to Long Hollow Ranch later in the year.

Johnny Leason so moved Ethan's suggestion. Stephen Pappa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

V. Outreach and Education Strategy

The committee discussed financially supporting an educational workshop that Scott Duggan would organize. The committee supports a more detailed workshop that focuses on providing preventative measure techniques to local ranchers and bringing awareness to funding opportunities to implement preventative measures.

Phil Chang brought up that building an outreach list takes resources and a plan and suggested the committee consider using some funds to support an outreach plan. Scott Duggan said he could send out a survey to build up an outreach list.

A sub-committee will work on creating application forms to consider depredation, missing, and preventative measures future grant funding requests. Stephen Pappa, Ethan O'Brien, and Donna Harris volunteered to establish and serve on the sub-committee.

VI. Discussion on Engagement Opportunities with Experts for Workshops and Techniques on Preventative Measures

See notes from agenda items III and IV.

VII. Public Comments

No public comments.

VIII. Next Steps

Next meeting will be in June, Jen will send around a doodle poll to schedule a meeting time. Agenda items will include further discussions on preventative measures and education, developing a process for applying for grant funding, and electing a permanent committee chair. The committee requested Aaron Bott be invited and available to answer questions during the meeting.

IX. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services